

IN THE CLAIMS:

The following listing of claims replaces all previous claim listings:

Claim 1 (currently amended): A system for inserting additional information in DCT (discrete cosine transform) coefficients by referring to a variable-length code table, wherein the DCT coefficients are generated in blocks from image data, the system comprising:

an information inserting section for inserting additional information into input DCT coefficients in a block by changing at least one DCT coefficient of the input DCT coefficients to produce changed DCT coefficients; and

a total code length restoring section for correcting a level of a one DCT coefficient selected from the changed DCT coefficients in the block, excluding the at least one changed DCT coefficient, to produce corrected DCT coefficients by referring to the variable-length code table, wherein the one DCT coefficient being is selected so that a total code length of codes generated from the corrected DCT coefficients is equal to an original total code length of codes generated from the input DCT coefficients in the block.

Claims 2-6 (Cancel)

Claim 7 (currently amended): A method for inserting additional information in DCT (discrete cosine transform) coefficients by referring to a variable-

length code table, wherein the DCT coefficients are generated in blocks from image data, the method comprising the steps of:

- a) inserting additional information into input DCT coefficients in a block by changing at least one DCT coefficient of the input DCT coefficients to produce changed DCT coefficients; and
- b) correcting a level of a one DCT coefficient selected from the changed DCT coefficients in the block, excluding the at least one changed DCT coefficient, to produce corrected DCT coefficients by referring to the variable-length code table, wherein the one DCT coefficient being is selected so that a total code length of codes generated from the corrected DCT coefficients is equal to an original total code length of codes generated from the input DCT coefficients in the block.

Claims 8-12 (Cancel)

Claim 13 (currently amended): A recording medium storing a computer-readable program for inserting additional information in DCT (discrete cosine transform) coefficients by referring to a variable-length code table, wherein the DCT coefficients are generated in blocks from image data, the program comprising the steps of:

- a) inserting additional information into input DCT coefficients in a block by changing at least one DCT coefficient of the input DCT coefficients to produce changed DCT coefficients; and
- b) correcting a level of a one DCT coefficient selected from the changed

DCT coefficients in the block, excluding the at least one changed DCT coefficient, to produce corrected DCT coefficients by referring to the variable-length code table, wherein the one DCT coefficient being is selected so that a total code length of codes generated from the corrected DCT coefficients is equal to an original total code length of codes generated from the input DCT coefficients in the block.